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## ***Waste Items with PC boards*** *How do I get rid of them?*

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The ES&H Section has recently received a number of questions concerning the Lab's strategy for managing items containing printed circuit boards that have become waste.

### ***SHORT ANSWER – Fermilab recycles items containing PC boards.***

If we did not take this approach, we would have to pay for their disposal as hazardous waste.



PC boards stored by Business Services pending recycling.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, whole, used circuit boards may be considered scrap metal and therefore qualify for the 40CFR261.6(a)(3)(ii) exemption when recycled. If the printed circuit boards aren't recycled the exemption doesn't apply and the boards would be considered hazardous waste due to their lead content. It is Fermilab's strategy to

recycle all printed circuit boards and equipment containing printed circuit boards. If you have printed circuit boards or electronic equipment to discard, complete a Material Move Request and submit it to the Property Office of the Business Services Section requesting the boards or equipment be picked up for recycling. **Do Not** dispose of printed circuit boards or electronic equipment in trash cans or dumpsters. This would be considered illegal disposal of a hazardous waste.



Lockout device and sign placed on dumpster by the HCTT.

The Hazard Control Technology Team (HCTT) of the ES&H section performs a visual inspection of the contents of all dumpsters just prior to their being emptied. If the technician performing the inspection sees any unauthorized materials, including printed circuit boards, a lockout device is placed on the dumpster and the ES&H organization of the division/section responsible for the dumpster is notified.

To reiterate, all printed circuit boards should be recycled. If for some reason this isn't possible, the boards must be managed as a hazardous waste. Please contact your division/section Chemical Waste Coordinator if you have any questions.



Electronic equipment collected by Business Services, destined for recycling.